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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Morning News Summary

The Washington Post

News dispatches report that South Moluccan nationalists released five children from the Indonesian consulate in Amsterdam yesterday but continued to hold more than 60 other hostages in the consulate and in a hijacked Dutch train 90 miles north of the city. (A-1)

The General Assembly, by a vote of 84-17, adopted a resolution asking all nations to stop supplying military or economic aid to Israel. The resolution also called on the Security Council to establish a timetable for the achievement of a settlement in the Middle East that insures Israeli withdrawal from "all the occupied Arab territories" and the "full recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people." (A-1)

Walter Pincus writes that within months of his becoming Attorney General in 1961, Robert Kennedy authorized the FBI to use wiretaps in a wide-ranging investigation of sugar lobbying in Washington on behalf of the Dominican Republic and other countries, according to information developed by the Senate intelligence committee. (A-1)

According to George Wilson, President Ford has decided to start buying the air force a new fleet of combination tanker-cargo planes -- a decision that could end up costing \$15 billion. His go-ahead, given during recent White House budget meetings, will draw fresh fire from members of Congress who have been trying to block development of the air force B-1 bomber on grounds that it would require costly new tankers to refuel it in flight. Air force leaders have steadfastly denied that building the B-1 bomber would require building new tankers as well. (A-1)

Richard Lyons reports that the House-Senate conferees yesterday took the next to final step in the historic process by which Congress will write an overall annual federal budget and set

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a spending ceiling and revenue floor it must live within.
(A-2)

Clark Clifford counseled lawmakers yesterday against abolishing CIA covert action operations but pronounced the U.S. intelligence apparatus badly in need of overhaul. (A-3)

David Ottaway says that the Western-backed National Front for the Liberation of Angola has begun to evacuate its headquarters at Ambriz, 70 miles north of the Angolan capital of Luanda, under mounting military pressure from the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. It now appears that the entire National Front army immediately to the north of Luanda is being routed by the Popular Movement's superior firepower. (A-10)

Yural Elizur says that Israel's prime minister yesterday stressed his government's determination not to negotiate with any Palestinian elements and not to agree to the establishment of another state between it and Jordan. This assertion that even talking to any Palestinian group would amount to recognition of the Palestinian right to statehood is a hardening of the Israeli position, which has simply been that it would not deal with terrorist groups. (A-12)

Jonathan Randal writes that under Soviet pressure, the PLO appears to have come closer than ever before to signaling its willingness to recognize Israel's right to exist. But the PLO itself gives every indication of wanting to play down the apparent policy change for tactical reasons. (A-12)

According to Marilyn Berger, the Kremlin has backed down on an agreement to pay premium rates for shipping of some American grain, throwing into doubt future deliveries to the Soviet Union, which is suffering from a disastrously poor harvest. Analysts of Soviet affairs suggested that Moscow was taking a hard line, despite the reports released this week about low yields in this year's harvest, because the Soviets do not like to negotiate from a position in which they appear to have a grossly inferior hand. Soviet officials are also well aware that American farmers are eager to sell their grain. It could come down to a choice for the Ford administration between the farmers and the maritime unions. Soviet officials, it was suggested, might think they can rely on Agriculture Secretary Butz to "deliver" for his constituency, the farmers. (A-13)

In connection with Admiral Zumwalt's testimony before the Pike committee, the Post wonders about Mr. Pike, who invites a witness to do a hatchet job on an administration official, who sits by while the witness levels charges which add up to nothing short of treason, who observes that the charges are grave and the subject complex, and who then closes the

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hearing and passes on quickly to other affairs. Unfortunately, this was not an isolated performance. The House committee, though it got a late start by no fault of Mr. Pike, could have made a useful contribution by selecting a few problems or study areas and focusing on them in depth. Instead it is skipping from headline to headline, giving its staff scant opportunity to relate whatever it is doing to the committee's public hearings, converting potentially useful challenges to excessive executive secrecy into wasteful confrontations of strong-willed men, leaving a trail which leads not to institutional reforms but to more argument and bitterness. It is hard to imagine how the findings and conclusions which may come out of such a performance can contribute to these urgently needed reforms. (A-14)

The Evans and Novak article, "New Concessions for a SALT Accord," is being sent full text. (A-15)

The Clayton Fritchey article, "Moynihan-Kissinger Split: A Matter of Style," is being sent full text. (A-15)

The Washington Star

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld will make his first overseas trip next week since taking over leadership of the Pentagon two weeks ago. Rumsfeld will leave tomorrow for Brussels to attend a meeting of NATO's defense planning committee. (A-2)

Britain abandoned yesterday its controversial policy of arresting and holding suspected Irish extremists without trial. The internment policy was introduced in August 1971 in an attempt to smash the military IRA. It was later used to curb suspected Protestant extremists. The major shift in policy was aimed at easing the tension that has threatened Ulster with civil war. (A-3)

The financially troubled Labor government plans to slash \$2.8 billion more from Britain's already drastically reduced defense budget, informed sources said yesterday. Defense sources said new cuts probably will mean a reduction of Britain's crack 50,000-man Rhine army in Germany, the cancellation of warship and aircraft building programs, and the closing of more defense bases. Diplomatic sources said such pruning probably would draw strong opposition from other NATO member countries at the alliance's annual evaluation meeting in Brussels next week. (A-4)

The Nationalist Chinese foreign ministry declared "strong opposition" yesterday to what it called "the dealings made between the U.S. and Chinese Communist regime." The statement,

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issued while President Ford was en route from Peking to Indonesia, said: "Recent events have demonstrated that the seeking of accommodation with Peiping since the publication of the so-called Shanghai communique, far from promoting the security of the free countries in Asia, has had the effect of encouraging communist infiltration and subversive activities and has resulted in the fall of the Indochinese countries into communist hands." (A-6)

According to a Star editorial, independence for Angola, after centuries of Portuguese colonial rule and little preparation for self-government, had loomed for many months as a potentially violent affair. There are three "liberation" groups divided along tribal and ideological lines, and African and Portuguese intermediaries have failed to hold them together in a coalition. Last month, the Portuguese left on schedule. The long-anticipated civil war commenced. The fight could be bloodier and more prolonged as a result of the substantial foreign involvement that has surfaced since then. There are dangers for all. Angolans of all persuasions face the prospect of more casualties and more destruction of their emergent country because of the additional firepower introduced by foreigners. All will bear blame for any larger catastrophe that results. And as Secretary of State Kissinger has repeatedly warned, the cause of East-West detente could be hurt in the Angolan confrontation. If it is not too late, the OAU should try again to bring the Angolan parties to the conference table and seek an end of foreign intervention. (A-14)

The New York Times

John Finney discloses that the size and shape of next year's defense budget, in the opinion of Pentagon officials, now depends in large measure on a political chess game being played between two young and ambitious officials -- Donald Rumsfeld and James T. Lynn. For the moment, Mr. Lynn appears to have the upper hand in imposing cuts in the projected defense budget for the next fiscal year, which begins on October 1, 1976. (1)

Henry Giniger reports that King Juan Carlos I decided yesterday to retain Carlos Arias Navarro as prime minister, a move that seemed to satisfy rightists and to disturb liberals and leftists. (1)

Marvine Howe says that the Portuguese government announced yesterday that it drafted a program to reorganize the state-owned press, which has been closed since last week's unsuccessful military coup. The primary aim of the reorganization is to end the domination of the Lisbon press by communists and leftists, according to sources close to Prime Minister

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Pinheiro de Azevedo. (4)

The Associated Press reports the president of CBS news said yesterday that the network had been unable to get information about two of its newsmen seized in Angola two weeks ago. (5)

A special to the Times reports from Tel Aviv that representatives of Jewish communities in 27 countries signed a declaration yesterday pledging help for Israel "to fulfill its historic mission in the return to Zion." At the close of the two-day conference, Prime Minister Rabin said Israel could not expect to find justice in the General Assembly for the foreseeable future. (10)

Bill Kovach reports from Jakarta that President Ford sought to reassure the government of Indonesia yesterday that the U.S. continued to be committed to the "peace and security" of Southeast Asia. Little more than an exchange of views and a report on President Ford's talks with Chinese leaders was planned for this stop, encompassing only 21 hours. (11)

In its lead editorial, the Times says that the decisions by the chiefs of government of the nine Common Market states on a uniform passport and direct elections to the European parliament in 1978 are a dramatic recommitment to the ultimate objective of a U.S. of Europe. Direct election of the European parliament, whose members now are named by national legislatures, undoubtedly will add to this political momentum. Authorized by the Common Market treaty, but never implemented, it should revive flagging public interest in the EEC and could enhance the parliament's very limited powers. A common future demands a common energy program for the Nine right now, within the framework of the 18-nation IEA. The way to that common program has effectively been opened by three EEC decisions at the Rome summit. By agreeing to a common minimum price for oil within the EEC and to share oil with other EEC countries in an emergency, French President Giscard d'Estaing now has in effect accepted de facto membership in the IEA. The nine chiefs of government were divided on major issues when they arrived in Rome for their two-day meeting. They left apparently united. What brought the summit to agreement was a political compulsion, a commitment to unity in Europe that permits divergent economic and political interests at home to be overridden. (28)

In another editorial, the Times states that almost every element in the Rhodesian situation indicates failure for the projected new round of constitutional negotiations between Prime Minister Smith and the African nationalist leader, Joshua Nkomo. In fact, the only hopeful sign is that the talks have been denounced in advance as a sellout by the most extreme forces in both black and white camps. Rhodesia potentially represents as great a threat to international peace

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as Angola does and a greater danger of becoming the cockpit of catastrophic black-white conflict in southern Africa. The Smith-Nkomo talks therefore deserve a fair chance -- but it is impossible to be optimistic about their outcome. (28)

C.L. Sulzberger summarizes economic changes in Brazil since the army takeover in 1964 and notes that the economic growth rate has been phenomenal. All kinds of jiggery-pokery have successfully violated the usual rules. There were back-breaking inflation, enormous deficits, spendthrift waste. At last these were succeeded by disciplined monetary reforms and ordered planning. Politically, Brazil has been in an icebox since 1964 but the freeze is starting to melt. Although civil rights were suspended in 1968, they are now slowly working their way back, supported by many elements of the nation. Where will all this lead is predictable. Some day South America's elephant will have both stability and freedom. But when, is another question. This continent tends to develop spasmodically, with long naps separating sprints. (29)

The Baltimore Sun

In the opinion of Ernest Furgurson, an alliance of convenience was confirmed in Peking between the most unnatural of allies, the U.S. and China. It is informal, unstated, and not long ago would have been a scandal. Even today it cannot be spelled out by the leaders involved, largely because of domestic politics. It will be denied on and off the record by "senior American officials." (A-1)

Henry Trewhitt believes that the most important results of the latest violence in the Middle East and the bitter debate in the UN may be the political ones still obscured by immediate events. American specialists on the Mideast listed two such results yesterday. One is the louder voice of the PLO and its growing political stature. The other is the public confirmation of the dim outlook for progress toward a Syrian-Israeli settlement. (A-2)

Muriel Dobbin reports that former top-level national security officials and an ex-intelligence agent yesterday recommended the reduction of covert American operations abroad and criticized Congress for its failure to accept responsibility in espionage decisions. (A-5)

Hannah Arendt died Thursday of an apparent heart attack in New York City. (A-18)

Garry Wills argues that we are punishing ourselves into the same No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-267-3-26-47

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part of "our" world. Yet what would be lost by returning the canal zone to Panama? We keep a force there professedly to counter a large threat, which the force does not affect; and our maintenance of the force creates a small but more immediate threat, one that is growing. What on earth do we have to gain by our refusal of Panama's demands? Nothing but the ability to say we did not "back down," give up, cut and run, betray our commitment. By saying that we can do anything, we force ourselves to try doing everything at once; and we are bound to come off the loser, even if we win -- because we always said we should and could win big. Well, we cannot. The sooner we realize that, the stronger we shall be. It will save us from wasting our efforts meeting foolish tests we set for ourselves. (A-21)